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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

13 February 1948

OSD REVIEW
COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

I have just completed a study of the papers dealing with the proposed establishment of the United States Communication Intelligence Board. Substantively, I am in complete agreement with the objects which these papers seek to accomplish.

Procedurally, however, it seems to me that there is no need for an Executive Order, in view of the very clear provisions of the National Security Act. I realize, of course, that the predecessor board was established by Executive Order, but that event took place prior to the passage of the National Security Act.

In view of the subsequent passage of that Act - and especially in view of the language of section 102 of the Act, which deals with the Central Intelligence Agency - I feel that the objects desired can more appropriately be accomplished by means of a Central Intelligence Agency directive.

I think that this procedure will work out satisfactorily from the standpoint of all concerned, since the Central Intelligence Agency is, by section 102, "established under the National Security Council", and since all of the Departments which are to be members of the United States Communication Intelligence Board are already members of the National Security Council.

It is my belief, therefore, that the substantive results envisioned by the subject papers can best be accomplished in the procedural manner I have indicated. If this is done, the National Security Council will itself constitute a group which can resolve any matters which are not decided at a lower level.

I expect to discuss this matter with the Secretary of State in the near future, and would appreciate any comments you may have in the meantime. I also suggest that this would be an appropriate matter for consideration by the Dulles-Jackson-Correa Committee which is to examine the operations of CIA.

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

signed - FORRESTAL

dc: - Secretary of State
Director, CIA
OSD:100:3;fb

James Forrestal

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